

CLAIMS:

1. A container comprising a base, a plurality of side walls and a top, at least some of the side walls having ducts therein through which gas can flow.
2. A container is claimed in claim 1 wherein four side walls are provided.
3. A container as claimed in claim 2 wherein at least two side walls include such ducts.
4. A container as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein at least one of the top and base include such ducts..
5. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the gas moves up a pair of such walls and down the remaining pair of side walls, the pair pathways crossing each other at the top without intersection of the pathways.
6. A container as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the gas moves up all side walls to the top, the top being apertured so that the gas returns to the base through the body of the container.
7. A container as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 the side walls contain apertures on the inner face of the wall through which gas can pass through the body of the container to the base, or to apertures in an opposite side.
8. A container as claimed in claim 7 wherein the apertures are smaller towards the bottom end in use of the walls and larger towards the top end of the walls in use.
9. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein gas moving means are provided in the base of the container.

10. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the walls are of a fluted construction so that the flutes provide the ducts.
- 5 11. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the base is positioned on a pallet or the base includes a pallet configuration.
12. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the gas comprises a cooled gas.
- 10 13. A container as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the gas comprises a heated gas.
14. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the gas comprises air.
- 15 15. A container comprising a base, a plurality of side walls and a top, there being ducts within at least some side walls, and a gas moving device arranged to direct gas through said ducts.
16. A container as claimed in claim 15 wherein the gas is directed up two side walls and down two side walls.
- 20 17. A container as claimed in claim 15 or claim 16 wherein two separate gas paths are provided.
18. A container as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 17 wherein the gas moving means is provided in the base or top and directs the gas to side walls and receives gas from two side walls.
- 25 19. A container as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 18 wherein the top includes two chambers or sets of ducts, gas in one gas path passing through one chamber or set of ducts and gas in the other gas path passing through the other.
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20. A container as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 19 wherein the base provides a gas receiving chamber and a gas supplying chamber, the gas moving device, moving gas from the gas receiving chamber to the supply chamber.
21. A container as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 20 wherein the top is made from fluted cardboard and the walls are made from fluted cardboard.
22. A container as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 21 wherein the container is insulated.
23. A container as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 22 wherein the base chambers formed by first tray open at two side walls, and a second tray open to the other two side walls.
24. A container as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 23 wherein the base is mounted on a pallet.
25. A container as claimed in claim 22 at least the sides and top are insulated at least on the outer surface.
26. A method of maintaining the temperature of or cooling a container having a top, a bottom, and a plurality of side walls comprising the steps of directing a flow of gas at the desired temperature up or down through one or more sides of the container and allowing the gas to return down or up through other side walls, or through the body of the container.
27. A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein the gas moves up two side walls and down two side walls.
28. A container substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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29. A method as claimed in claim 26 and substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

